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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 9, 2007

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Massachusetts Joins 31-State Effort to Track Greenhouse Gas Emissions

BOSTON – Wednesday, May 09, 2007 – Massachusetts has joined 31 states, one Native American tribe, and two Canadian provinces as founding members of The Climate Registry, the largest multi-state effort to date to track the emissions associated with global warming.

The newly formed nonprofit organization will assist in measuring, tracking, and verifying emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), the gases that cause climate change. It will also provide the measurement and reporting infrastructure to support voluntary, mandatory, market-based and emissions reduction programs that are consistent across borders and industry sectors. The Registry will accept reporting data starting in January 2008.

“Under my administration, Massachusetts has been a national leader in the efforts to address climate change, and participating in the Climate Registry is another critical step forward,” said Governor Deval Patrick. “We can only manage what we measure. Through the Climate Registry, we will develop a nationally recognized platform for credible and consistent greenhouse gas emissions reporting.”

Charter members of the Climate Registry include the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the Campo Kumeyaay Nation of Southern California. Two Canadian provinces, British Columbia and Manitoba, have also committed to participating.

“The power of the Climate Registry can be seen in its founding membership – 31 states representing more than 70 percent of the population nationwide,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles. “Getting accurate data on greenhouse gas emissions is a vital first step toward addressing the impact of climate change on our Commonwealth, and on the world.”

Joining The Climate Registry is Massachusetts's latest action to address climate change. In January, Gov. Patrick signed the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), committing the Commonwealth to a multi-state effort to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide through a cap-and-trade mechanism. At that time, Gov. Patrick also announced a policy of auctioning 100 percent of the state's emissions allowances under RGGI, using the proceeds to fund energy efficiency, renewable energy, and rate reduction efforts. In April, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs adopted its Greenhouse Gas Emissions Policy, which requires certain projects undergoing review by the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office to quantify the GHG emissions generated by the project and identify measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate those emissions.

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